

The Quarterly Bulletin

Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Library – 125 Washington Street

Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

812-689-3031

www.rchslib.org

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January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Number 1

▲ January Quarterly Meeting

Our next meeting will be held **January 12, at the Central House Napoleon, Indiana**. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will be served by Central House. Program: Tour Central House

▲ Library Hours



NOTICE: The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. For those not able to visit us in person, email your requests for information to rchslib@gmail.com or regular mail to P O Box 525 Versailles, IN 47042. We look forward to serving your research needs.

NOTICE: The Museum is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call Cheryl Welch, President 812-621-0418, Duane Drockelman, Vice President 812-852-1313 or Barbara Eades, Secretary 812-701-9238.



▲ Annual Dues

Remember to renew your membership for another year. **2025** Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for **2025** to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$20; Life \$150.

▲ Research

Research is free to all members and \$10.00 for non-members. Copies/scans are \$1.00 per page for everyone and can be sent via email or in paper form. To take pictures of copies a \$2.00 charge will be taken. Please make your research requests via email or regular mail. Research is free to all members.

▲ Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to donate 3 hours of their time one day a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in volunteering.

▲ Books

See our list of books available listed on the last page of this newsletter. The WWII War Veterans Book, titled *LEST WE FORGET* by Joan and Norris Krall is still available. It can be obtained for \$25 at (1) Batesville Historical Society which is located on George Street next to the Post Office, (2) the Osgood Museum on South Buckeye Street (on Friday or Saturday afternoons), (3) in Versailles at the Ripley County Historical Society Library on the west side of the Courthouse Square (open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon from 1 to 4), or (4) NOVEL HeARTs Bookstore, 133 Tyson Street Versailles, IN. Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. Books may be shipped for a \$7.50 shipping and handling fee.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting October 13, 2024 at the Ripley County Historical Society Archives. Nineteen persons were present.

President Cheryl Welch called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The minutes from the last meeting were read by Owen Menchhofer in the absence of Secretary Barbara Eades. Owen Menchhofer presented the treasurer's reports and both were approved.

Old Business:

- Update was given on the archive renovations thanking all who volunteered with the project.
- Thank you to the Tyson fund for the floor joist repair grant which was received. Owen volunteered to move the books in the basement in the needed work area

New Business:

- Thank you to Southeastern REMC for the grant for the updates to the computer system.
- Owen explained the schedule of events for the Wreaths Across Ripley County. On Saturday, December 7 at 3 pm there will be the commemoration event on the Courthouse Square at the Veteran's Memorial for WARC. Since the date is Pearl Harbor Day the memory of John Raymond Stratton will be honored with the placement of a wreath by family members. Seaman first class Stratton was killed in the Japanese attack on the USS Arizona on December 7, 1941. Veteran wreaths will be placed in county cemeteries on Saturday, December 14.
- The Main Street Versailles group will be holding their Home for the Holidays event on December 7. The Archives will have an open house for the community beginning at 5:30 pm to show off the updates to the building.
- Victor Sarringhouse asked about the book progress. President Welch stated it is always a "waiting" response from Tracy at Winters Publishing since the project started in 2018.
- Dannie Welch asked about the updates on the website. Owen will check with Monica Hansen and Zach Menchhofer about this project.

Refreshments were provided by Cheryl Welch/Shelby Township in the absence of Washington Township director Gary Johnson. The next meeting will be Sunday, January 12, 2025 at the Central House in Napoleon. Victor Sarringhouse will have the program about the Central House and its history. Refreshments will be served by Central House.

Following the close of the meeting David Dreyer gave an interesting and humorous talk on what makes Laughery, Wabash, Whitewater, and other Hoosier valleys special. David is a long term RCHS member and currently hails from Natchez, Mississippi.

Respectfully submitted,
Owen Menchhofer, Secretary pro-tem

NOTICE

Check out our Facebook page: *Ripley County Historical Society & Museum*

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Ripley-County-Historical-Society-Museum/61558493116775/>

Watch for our updated website coming soon!

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for joining us for our Open House, December 7. If you missed us then, stop any time during our regular hours.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

Ripley County Historical Society: Archives – P. O. Box 525, 125 N Washington Street, Versailles, IN 47042. 812-689-3031 Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. **Museum** – Open by appointment only. Website: <https://rchslib.org>

Osgood Historical Museum: 128 South Buckeye Osgood, IN 47037. 812-689-1876 Open by appointment only. Face Book: Osgood Historical Museum

Batesville Area Historical Society: 15 W George Street Batesville, IN 47006, 812-932-0999 Open Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. Closed January & February. Website: <https://batesvillehistoricalcenter.org>

The Sunman History Museum: Located in the Town Hall on the north side of Sunman, opposite the fire station. Open Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Milan 54 Museum: Located 201 W Carr St. P O Box 54, Milan, IN 47031. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Outside of these hours, an appointment can be made by contacting us via email or phone: milan54@frontier.com 812-654-2772.



Wreaths Across Ripley County is offering a 2 for 1 match for December 2025 wreaths. Any donation made and received at the Ripley County Community Foundation by **January 17, 2025**, will be eligible for a two for one wreath match for December 2025 Wreaths Across Ripley County.

Donations may be made through the Ripley County Community Foundation. www.rccfonline.org

BOOKS FOR SALE

A Century of Schools	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
A Wishful Eye	by D. L. McIntyre	\$15.00
Adams Township Cemetery Directory		\$15.00
Broken Wings	by Robert Kelly	\$20.00
Brown Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Brown Township Tales	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Center Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Delaware Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Franklin Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
History of Adams Township	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Historic Travel Guide to Ripley County	by Paul R Wanning	\$20.00
In These First Bright Days of Elvis Book I	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
In Those Dazzling Days of Elvis Book II	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
In Those Glory Days of Elvis Book III	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
Indiana's Fascination Museums	by Paul R Wanning	\$10.00
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Laughery Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Lest We Forget a Tribute to the World War II Veterans of Ripley County	by Norris & Joan Krall	\$25.00
Milan, Indiana: A Storied Past 1854-2004		\$16.00
Napoleon & Vicinity Sesquicentennial 1820-1970		\$12.00
Old Timbers	by Chilton Thompson	\$23.00
Osgood Indiana Sesquicentennial 1856-2006		\$17.00
Passing Point	by Don Morrison	\$ 8.00
Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots with Ties to Ripley County Indiana	by Marlene Jan McDerment	\$34.00
Ripley County, IN Vintage Post Cards	by Alan Smith	\$25.00
Ripley County History Volume I		\$65.00
Ripley County History Volume II	(Paperback)	\$25.00
Shelby Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Story of the Bradt Fund, the F. Hale Bradt Family and their Versailles, Indiana Farm 1906 – 2001		n/c
Sugar Branch #1	by Don Morrison	\$16.00
The Dark Line #2	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Come Safe Home #3	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Tales of Versailles	by Alan Smith	\$16.00
Versailles, Indiana School Life 1818 -1966	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Wilbur's War (Abridged)	by Hale Bradt	\$15.00

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd. Batesville, IN 47006	Vice President
Brown Twp. - Mrs. Barbara Eades, 3953 E. Olean Rd. Versailles, Indiana 47042	Secretary
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Delaware Twp. -	
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Lori Hoffman, 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250	Web Master
Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch	Newsletter Committee